

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN BRANDS DR. COOK A FAKIR

His Polar Data Proves Absolutely Nothing, Is Report of Committee

The Official Finding Substantiates Com- mander Peary's Charges that Rival Explorer Had "Gold-Bricked" the World --His Friends Prepared for the Worst- Hinted that Discredited Scientist is Not Mentally Responsible.

Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—The University of Copenhagen, the first institution of learning to recognize Dr. Frederick A. Cook, as the discoverer of the North Pole, today solemnly declared that the explorer had failed to establish the claim on which his high honors have been based. The committee appointed by the university to examine Dr. Cook's records, recently presented its report to the consistory of the university, which reviewed the deductions of the experts with the greatest care. That both committee and consistory were disappointed was soon known here. The consistory met today and adopted a written report to the effect "that the alleged records submitted for examination by Dr. Cook failed to prove his claim." The report of the committee, of which Professor Stromgren was the chairman, presented to the consistory, states "that Dr. Cook's papers are without any value and that his report to the university of Copenhagen is practically the same as that published in the New York Herald on his return from his Arctic expedition." "Copies of his note books submitted," says the committee, "contain no original calculations or observations, but only the result thereof." Accordingly, the committee concludes that Dr. Cook affords no proof whatever of having reached the North Pole.

Cook's papers were not accompanied by a private letter from Dr. Cook, but Secretary Lonsdale stated verbally to the commission that the original notes and books of the explorer, from which the copies were made, had been sent to Europe by another route as a precautionary measure and would be delivered to the university in the course of a few days. In presenting the data, Lonsdale stated positively, explicitly and repeatedly that copy number two was a complete and accurate duplication of the information contained in the whole of Dr. Cook's note books that could be of any importance to the university.

In spite of the explorer's promises and the secretary's assurance that they would be forthcoming, the commission is not yet in the possession of the original note books and diaries. Up to this time it has been impossible for the university authorities to re-establish communication with Dr. Cook. The explorer's address is not even known to Secretary Lonsdale. After members of the examining committee had made themselves acquainted with the material delivered and had convinced themselves of its worthlessness as a means of determining whether Dr. Cook reached the Pole, the president of the committee, Professor Stromgren, called a general meeting of the committee for last Friday, when the report to the university, and which was today made public, was drawn up.

The documents handed the commission of the university for examination are:

First—A typewritten report prepared by Cook's secretary, Walter Lonsdale, and covering sixty-one pages of foolscap.

Second—A typewritten copy made by Lonsdale from Cook's note books. This occupies sixteen pages of foolscap and includes a description of the period from March 18, 1908, to June 13, 1908, during which, according to his statement, Cook journeyed from Svartevog to the North Pole and returned to a point on the Polar ice not specifically indicated, but west of Axel Heberg Land.

Lonsdale, who had been invited to attend this meeting to answer some questions, brought with him a letter addressed by Dr. Cook to Professor Torp, former rector of the university. The letter bore the postmark of Marseilles, December 14, but was dated New York, September 27. In the letter, Dr. Cook stated not only were his instruments left at Etah, as indicated in his cable dispatches to the university on October 20, but most of his astronomical observations were left there and he added that without these, it would seem unwise and impossible to pass final judgment on the expedition.

"I Told You So," Says Peary
Washington, Dec. 21.—"I have known the outcome of this since a week before I reached this country on my return from the North pole," said Commander Robert E. Peary this

morning, when told by the Associated Press of the Copenhagen verdict. "It was not a matter of belief with me, but of absolute knowledge. You remember my cablegram from Battle Harbor, Labrador, I wired that Dr.

ROSWELL SALOONKEEPER MUST SERVE SIXTY DAYS IN JAIL

Roswell, N. M., Dec. 21.—After a stubborn legal fight, extending over the past five days, during which every legal technicality was brought into play and habeas corpus proceedings finally resorted to by counsel for Car Leopold, a Roswell capitalist and saloonkeeper, to save him from serving a jail sentence, Judge William H. Pope today sustained his decision of two years ago, in which he ruled that

Cook had simply handed the public a gold-brick. My warning was based on complete and accurate information regarding Cook's claims."

Cook Is Located

New York, Dec. 21.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook is now in Christiania, Norway, according to William L. Cook, his brother. Mr. Cook said the doctor was greatly recovered from his nervous breakdown and was ready to go to Copenhagen to give the university there further information.

"He has fooled us all from the king down," was the exclamation of John R. Bradley, Dr. Cook's backer, on his Arctic trip. "I discounted this decision from the University of Copenhagen some time ago," he continued. "When a man runs away you can't expect his friends to fight for him, and Cook's flight, for that's what it amounted to, killed all my interest in him and his affairs. I am sick of this whole blooming polar business and I don't want to hear anything more of the North pole or its attributes," was the way Mr. Bradley wound up his comments.

"If the public knew the truth concerning Dr. Cook's mental and physical condition as it is known by his close friends, they would take a more charitable view of his present situation," today said H. Wellington Wack, counsel for Dr. Cook, when told the University of Copenhagen had rejected Dr. Cook's polar claims.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN OLD-FASHIONED WAY

New York, Dec. 21.—Chancellor James B. Day of Syracuse University is in favor of an old-fashioned Christmas. In his farewell address to the students who left for their homes today he said:

"I urge you all to celebrate Christmas in the old-fashioned way. I hope you will be favored with plenty of snow-balling and good sleighing while you are home. If the sleighing is good, I hope the young men will all learn to drive with one arm. If I were a girl I would not go driving with a young man unless he could drive with one arm."

ENGLAND REMOVES BAN ON RED CROSS STAMPS

Chicago, Dec. 21.—The ban has been taken off the Red Cross Christmas stamps by the postal authorities of Great Britain and hereafter letters bearing the "little bullets" in the warfare against consumption will be admitted to England and Ireland, provided they carry the proper amount of postage stamps. Hundreds of letters bearing Christmas stamps and directed to England or Ireland, which have been held here, were forwarded to the addressees last night.

CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE BALLINGER-PINCHOT ROW

Washington, Dec. 21.—The senate today practically decided upon an inquiry into the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy by adopting a resolution introduced by Senator Flint, of California, calling for all the papers bearing upon the case. Senator Jones, of Washington, stated if no one else should propose a resolution of inquiry, he would do so after the holidays.

President Taft yesterday yielded to the demands of both Secretary of the Interior Richard A. Ballinger and his critics for a public investigation of the whole subject matter underlying the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

Mr. Ballinger yesterday served upon the president virtually an ultimatum to the effect that such an investigation was indeed the price of his remaining in the cabinet. He made it clear that he was no longer willing to sit silent and wait for the thing to blow over.

Mr. Taft, it is said, reluctantly admitted the disappointment of his hope that the country at large would accept as final his own vindication of Mr. Ballinger in his dismissal of the charges brought against the secretary of the interior by L. R. Glavin, the former special agent of the land office, and his conclusion that the investigation demanded by both sides was inevitable.

Mr. Ballinger's attitude in this matter has the support of leading republicans in both branches of congress.

EIGHT DEAD IN LONDON FIRE

BIG DEPARTMENT STORE BURNS,
ENTAILING A LOSS OF
\$2,500,000

VICTIMS WERE SHOPPERS

ESTABLISHMENT WAS CROWDED
WITH CHRISTMAS BUYERS
AT THE TIME

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY

WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER ALARM
WAS SOUNDED, BUILDING
WAS IN RUINS

London, Dec. 21.—Five bodies were recovered this morning from the ruins of the dry goods store of Arding & Hobbs in the Clapham quarter. The known dead now number eight. All the employees have been accounted for, but there were hundreds of Christmas shoppers on the floors at the time the fire broke out yesterday afternoon. Some twenty-five business and residence places adjoining the store were badly damaged.

The fire was caused, it is believed, by the breaking of an electric bulb which started a blaze among celluloid articles beneath. It occurred about 4:30 p. m., when the store, covering an acre and having five floors and a hundred departments, was crowded with Christmas shoppers.

The Christmas trade was in full swing, but in little more than an hour the building was a mass of ruins. The damage is estimated at \$2,500,000. Most all the customers made their way in safety out of the store and there was little panic.

While a girl was trying to reach the ground the ladder took fire and she fell and was killed. Two men then jumped and were also killed.

GILA VALLEY BURIED UNDER BLANKET OF SNOW

El Paso, Dec. 21.—A heavy snow fell again last night in the Gila valley of Arizona, extending to Tucson, while the worst sleet storm that ever struck southern Texas is now raging from Floresville south towards the coast. The temperature has been below freezing in El Paso, since last Friday and the ground here and in northern Mexico, is covered with snow. Many cattle are dying from exposure.

ZELAYA IS STILL ON JOB

NICARAGUAN DICTATOR WILL
ING TO TREAT WITH REVOL-
UTIONISTS

TO PREVENT INTERVENTION

IF PEOPLE ACCEPT DR. MADRIZ,
ALL WILL BE WELL,
HE SAYS

MAY TAKE THE FIELD

IF OVERTURES ARE TURNED
DOWN, THEN HE WILL COM-
MAND ARMY

New Orleans, Dec. 21.—A special to the Picayune from Port Limon, Costa Rica, quotes a telegram sent the Nicaraguan minister there by Zelaya. In it the latter says:

"Although there still is some unrest to be allayed, I believe matters will end satisfactorily and for the good of all. In spite of the fact that Irias was my candidate, I have accepted Dr. Madriz. I have issued instructions to General Vasquez to come to terms with the revolutionists in order to prevent American intervention. If they accept Madriz everything will be at an end, if not, I shall hand over my office to my candidate and place myself at the head of the army."

A Plea for Protection

Managua, Dec. 21.—The United States consulate here today received a plea for protection from Americans at Granada. The petition asked that U. S. marines be landed at Cornito immediately and sent to Granada. Granada is one of President Madriz's strongholds.

KANSAS CITY LIVERYMAN VICTIM OF TUBERCULOSIS

This morning at 5 o'clock, at his temporary residence on Main avenue, Harry C. Sprague, who came to Las Vegas about three weeks ago, from Kansas City, succumbed to that insidious disease, tuberculosis. The deceased was 31 years of age and was a well known liveryman of Kansas City, being associated in business with his father. At the time the final summons came, the mother, Mrs. George Sprague, who accompanied the sick man to this city, was at the bedside. The body was prepared for shipment to Kansas City by J. C. Johnson & Son, being sent east, accompanied by the grief-stricken mother, on Santa Fe train No. 2 this afternoon.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET RESUMES ITS ACTIVITY

Boston, Dec. 21.—The local wool market has regained its activity, especially in California and quarter blood fleeces. The demand is mostly from the woolen mills and grades hitherto unobtainable are being cleaned up. Values are well maintained. Wyoming selling in original bags at 25@27 cents, while Ohio quarter blood fleeces are held at 23 cents. Considerable interest is also manifested in pulled wool. Bidding for the 1910 clip is said to be fairly active in the west, although the holding price of 23 cents is not attractive to local dealers.

JUDGE MILLS TENDERED AN OVATION BY RATONITES

(Special Dispatch.)

Raton, N. M., Dec. 21.—One of the most enthusiastic demonstrations in the history of Raton, took place this morning upon the arrival here of Santa Fe train No. 1, on which Chief Justice William J. Mills, whose confirmation as governor of New Mexico, was announced yesterday, was a passenger, enroute to his home at Las Vegas from Washington.

Headed by the Raton band, a parade of between 250 and 300 prominent citizens, representing both political parties, marched to the depot and as the

NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE
OPTIMISTIC OVER OUT-
LOOK

RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON

REACHED HOME THIS AFTER-
NOON FROM NATIONAL
CAPITAL

TO QUALIFY IN SPRING

EXACT DATE OF HIS INAUGURA-
TION DEPENDS ON GOVERNOR
NOR CURRY

"The statehood issue has become very clearly and explicitly defined at Washington and there is absolutely not the slightest doubt that the national administration is strongly in favor of admitting New Mexico to the union of states. It is no longer an item of news that the president is strongly in favor of statehood, but it is decidedly news, and pleasing news, to hear that all the members of President Taft's cabinet are in favor of our admission and have expressed themselves."

This is the substance of an interview had by a representative of The Optic with Chief Justice William J. Mills, who returned from Washington this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, on delayed Santa Fe train No. 1.

Judge Mills is in fine spirits and his eastern trip seems to have benefited him greatly. When asked whether he expressed any opinion regarding the statehood campaign, he said that the project is exceedingly bright, that practically every member of the cabinet and in some way back with favor upon the hopes of New Mexico. Among the many pleasant things that came to the new executive during his absence from Las Vegas, one that lingers very pleasantly in his mind is the reception of welcome he received at Raton and noon. He was met at the train by a large body of citizens and a brass band. So many were desirous of shaking hands with the Judge that there was no time for speechmaking.

When asked when he expected to qualify and take up his new official duties in Santa Fe, Judge Mills replied: "I am in no hurry. That will depend entirely on the convenience and wishes of my friend, Governor Curry." Beyond what has been stated about Judge Mills was unwilling to express himself at the present time regarding matters concerning the attitude of the national administration towards New Mexico official affairs.

H. W. CAMPBELL IS TO LECTURE HERE TOMORROW

H. W. Campbell, the father of dry farming, will arrive in the city tomorrow morning from Lincoln, Neb., and will lecture tomorrow afternoon at the Commercial club at 1:30 o'clock. His subject will be "The Possibilities of the West." Mr. Campbell is a most intelligent speaker and every one in the city interested in the welfare of the west should attend this lecture if possible.

train pulled in, gave three rousing cheers for Judge Mills, the new governor. The band then serenaded the new governor during the train's stay of fifteen minutes while those in the crowd shook hands with the new territorial executive and extended their congratulations on his confirmation and best wishes for a successful administration. The demonstration was a complete surprise to Judge Mills, but he seemed to appreciate it all the more because of this. Three more rousing cheers and a "Hail" were given Judge Mills as the train pulled out.